

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 11, 14, 27 and 29. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

- C1
11. (Twice mended) An isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression cassette comprising a modified Aequorea green fluorescent protein (GFP) nucleic acid sequence, wherein the GFP is mutated to further tailor sensitivity of the GFP and operatively linked to expression control sequences, and wherein the modified GFP sequence encodes a recombinant peptide which comprises restriction endonuclease sites introduced at a location of wild type Aequorea GFP molecule selected from the group consisting of: between glutamine (Gln) 157 and lysine (Lys)158 of wild type Aequorea GFP, between glutamic acid (Glu)172 and aspartic acid (Asp)173 of wild type Aequorea GFP and both of the aforementioned locations.

- C2
14. (Twice Amended) An isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression vector comprising a modified Aequorea green fluorescent protein (GFP) nucleic acid sequence, wherein the GFP is mutated to further tailor sensitivity of the GFP and operatively linked to expression control sequences, and wherein the modified GFP sequence encodes a heterologous amino acid sequence introduced at a position of wild type Aequorea GFP molecule selected from the group consisting of: between glutamine (Gln) 157 and lysine (Lys)158 of wild type Aequorea GFP, between glutamic acid (Glu)172 and aspartic acid (Asp)173 of wild type Aequorea GFP and both of the aforementioned locations.

- C3
27. (Amended) An isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression cassette comprising a modified Aequorea green fluorescent protein (GFP) nucleic acid sequence, wherein the modified GFP is derived from a wild type Aequorea GFP which has been mutated to further tailor sensitivity of the GFP and operatively linked to expression control sequences, wherein the modified GFP sequence comprises a hexapeptide LEPRAS (SEQ ID NO: 1) which has been introduced into one or more loops present on the surface of the GFP.

- C4
29. (Amended) An isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression cassette comprising a modified Aequorea green fluorescent protein (GFP) nucleic acid sequence, wherein the modified GFP is derived from a wild type Aequorea GFP which has been mutated to further tailor sensitivity of the GFP and operatively linked to expression control sequences, wherein the modified GFP comprises a substitution of serine at position 147 of GFP to proline (Ser147Pro) and a hexapeptide LEPRAS (SEQ ID NO: 1) which has been introduced into one or more loops present on the surface of the GFP.

REMARKS

Telephonic Interview

Applicants' Attorney would like to thank the Examiner for her time and helpful suggestions for responding to the Office Action dated July 30, 2002 in the telephonic interview on January 16, 2003.

Claim amendments

Claims 11 and 14 have been amended to recite an isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression cassette comprising a modified Aequorea GFP nucleic acid sequence, wherein the GFP is mutated to further tailor sensitivity of the GFP and operatively linked to expression control sequences, and wherein the modified GFP sequence encodes a recombinant peptide which comprises restriction endonuclease sites, or encodes a heterologous amino acid sequence,